

# INTRODUCTION

The GED® Tests have provided adults an opportunity to demonstrate that they possess the academic skills equivalent to a high school education since World War II. Regardless of the reason the adult did not complete high school, this second opportunity enables adults to get a job, obtain a better job or transition to postsecondary education. Over 17 million individuals have earned the GED credential since its inception making it widely recognized and accepted.

The GED Tests provide a uniform measure of high school achievement. Passing the tests means the same in every state from Maine to California, the Canadian provinces and U.S. territories. The GED Tests are standardized and normed using a nationally representative sample of graduating seniors during the spring of their senior year. The tests are designed so those who pass the GED Tests meet or exceed the performance of that demonstrated by four out of every ten traditional high school graduates. In other words, 40 percent of current high school graduates would not pass the GED Tests. The tests are updated to coincide with curricular and technological changes in secondary schools as well as employer needs for skilled workers. The latest version of the GED Tests was released in 2002. GED Testing Service® is planning a Fifth Edition of the GED Tests but a release date has not been finalized.

Because of the rigor, validity and reliability of the GED Tests, the credential is accepted by 98 percent of postsecondary institutions and universities and 96 percent of employers.

## **Separation of GED Instruction and GED Testing Centers**

To protect the integrity of the GED Tests, there must be a clear separation between instruction and testing. Instructors may not be examiners or see the actual tests. GED testing centers must abide by strict security measures and procedures that protect the tests.

This handbook is written for adult educators so they can better prepare test-takers for the GED test session. It provides basic information about the tests, test results and frequently asked questions. This handbook also discusses testing center policies and procedures to foster better understanding and cooperation between adult education providers and testing center examiners.